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June 8, 2022

Assistant Secretary Annie Petsonk
Office of Aviation and International Affairs
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: DOT-OST-2021-0046, 0078: Second Letter of Support of Universal Hydrogen

Dear Assistant Secretary Petsonk:

On February 6, 2022, I submitted a letter on behalf of Universal Hydrogen Co. (“**UH2**”) in support of the applications of Waltzing Matilda Aviation, LLC (“**WMA**” d/b/a “**Connect Airlines**”) for certificates of convenience and necessity authorizing WMA to operate scheduled interstate and foreign air transportation. That letter described UH2’s partnership with Connect Airlines with the goal of introducing true-zero emission regional aircraft into service in North America starting in 2025. Since that time, UH2 has been working hard to develop our technology and make this vision a reality.

Today, we announced another milestone. As described in the attached press release, UH2 has announced Connect Airlines’ firm order to convert 75 ATR 72-600 regional aircraft to hydrogen powertrains, with purchase rights for an additional 25 conversions. This agreement represents a significant step forward in achieving the Department of Transportation’s goals of reducing and eliminating aviation’s carbon footprint in the timeframe outlined by the Paris Agreement.

Sincerely,

Paul Eremenko
Co-Founder & CEO
Universal Hydrogen Co.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on June 8, 2022, I filed, in Docket DOT-OST-2021-0046 and Docket DOT-OST-2021-0078 by electronic means using the process set forth at <https://www.regulations.gov>, the Second Letter of Support of Universal Hydrogen and served such letter, by email, on the following:

Organization	Email Address
DOT	laura.remo@dot.gov
DOT	damon.walker@dot.gov
DOT	jerish.varghese@dot.gov
DOT	Carol.petsonk@dot.gov
DOT	carlos.monje@dot.gov
DOT	Andrew.Wishnia@dot.gov
DOT	Peter.irvine@dot.gov
FAA	david.f.gillen@faa.gov
Air Line Pilots Association	sascha.vanderbellen@alpa.org
Air Line Pilots Association	david.semanchick@alpa.org
Southwest Airline Pilots Association	hyu@swapa.org
Southwest Airline Pilots Association	chancock@swapa.org
Condon & Forsyth	abattista@condonlaw.com
Philadelphia International Airport	rochelle.cameron@phl.org
Chicago Department of Aviation	jamie.rhee@cityofchicago.org
Ports Toronto	gene.cabral@portstoronto.com
Association of Flight Attendants – CWA	snelson@afacwa.org
Allied Pilots Association	jclark@alliedpilots.org
Allied Pilots Association	dmrosenthal@jamhoff.com
Allied Pilots Association	sgray@alliedpilots.org
Allied Pilots Association	jbenton@alliedpilots.org
Independent Pilots Association	rozhawk@verizon.net
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO	gregr@ttd.org
Alaska	dheffernan@cozen.com
Alaska	rwelford@cozen.com
American	robert.wirick@aa.com
American	john.b.williams@aa.com
American	bruce.wark@aa.com
Delta	chris.walker@delta.com
Delta	steven.seiden@delta.com
FedEx Express	anne.bechdolt@fedex.com
FedEx Express	sllunsford@fedex.com
FedEx Express	brian.hedberg@fedex.com
Frontier	howard.diamond@flyfrontier.com
Hawaiian, Connect	perkmann@cooley.com
JetBlue	robert.land@jetblue.com
JetBlue	reese.davidson@jetblue.com
JetBlue	dderco@eckertseamans.com
JetBlue	esahr@eckertseamans.com
Polar	kevin.montgomery@polaraircargo.com

Organization	Email Address
Southwest	leslie.abbott@wnco.com
Eastern/Spirit	dkirstein@yklaw.com
Eastern/Spirit	jyoung@yklaw.com
United	dan.weiss@united.com
United	steve.morrissey@united.com
United	amna.arshad@freshfields.com
Airlineinfo	info@airlineinfo.com

/s/Patrick R. Rizzi

FINAL

Universal Hydrogen and Connect Airlines Announce Firm Order for Conversion of 75 ATR 72-600 Regional Aircraft to Be Powered by Green Hydrogen

Agreement, which also includes purchase rights for 25 additional aircraft conversions, places Connect Airlines on trajectory to be the world's first zero-emission passenger airline

Bentonville, Arkansas – June 8, 2022 – “We are building Connect Airlines from the ground up as a smarter, more sustainable travel option for North American travelers,” said John Thomas, CEO, Connect Airlines. “We have committed to being the world’s first true zero-emission airline and the only way to accomplish this in the near term is with hydrogen.” Today at the UP.Summit, an annual gathering of leaders in air transport innovation hosted by venture capital firm UP.Partners, [Universal Hydrogen Co.](#) and [Connect Airlines](#), a division of Waltzing Matilda Aviation, announced that the airline has placed a firm order to convert 75 ATR 72-600 regional airplanes to hydrogen powertrains, with purchase rights for an additional 25 conversions. Deliveries will start in 2025. The agreement follows an [initial letter of intent \(LOI\)](#) between the companies announced in 2021.

“This order places Connect firmly in the vanguard of the march to get aviation on a path to meeting Paris Agreement emissions targets,” said Paul Eremenko, co-founder and CEO of Universal Hydrogen. “This march will very soon need to turn into a sprint if the industry has any hope of decarbonizing in time without having to curtail the growth in passenger volumes. We will need to convert most of the regional fleet in the 2020s and ensure that the new narrowbody aircraft built in the 2030s are hydrogen-powered—there is no other way to get there.”

In addition to a hydrogen conversion kit for the ATR 72-600, the most popular in-production regional turboprop on the market, Universal Hydrogen offers hydrogen fuel services to airports using a modular capsule technology that enables the transport and handling of hydrogen using the existing intermodal freight network and cargo handling equipment. This eliminates the need for costly and lengthy airport infrastructure upgrades and makes nearly every airport in the world hydrogen-ready. As part of today’s agreement, Universal Hydrogen will provide fuel services to the Connect fleet enabling operating unit economics that are equivalent or better than those of hydrocarbon-powered ATR 72s from the very first delivery in 2025.

“We see the partnership with Universal Hydrogen as the fastest path to zero-emission operation because they offer both an affordable retrofit solution for the existing airplane fleet, as well as a pragmatic approach to delivering hydrogen to any airport in our route network,” said Thomas. “With this technology and its economics, we see the demand growing to 800 new aircraft added to the regional fleet over the next decade.”

About Universal Hydrogen

Universal Hydrogen is making hydrogen-powered commercial flight a near-term reality. The company takes a flexible, scalable, and capital-light approach to hydrogen logistics by

transporting it in modular capsules over the existing freight network from green production sites directly to the airplane anywhere in the world. The company is targeting regional and narrowbody/single aisle airplanes as the near-term and most impactful decarbonization opportunities. Universal Hydrogen is also working to certify a powertrain conversion kit to retrofit existing regional aircraft to fly on hydrogen.

About Waltzing Matilda Aviation / Connect Airlines

WMA is a Boston based FAA Part 135 jet charter operator (Certificate number 6WZA614N) in the certification process to add FAA Part 121 scheduled and non-scheduled services to its Air Operators Certificate under the Connect Airlines brand. WMA identified the need for a “smarter airline” and brought together aviation leaders and enthusiasts with over 150 years’ experience who share a common passion – to work and fly smarter. With the planes we fly, the technology we use, and the operations we run, Connect Airlines will deliver a quieter, cleaner, and healthier travel experience. Connect Airlines, the future of smarter, greener travel.

About UP.Summit

Hosted by mobility investment firm UP.Partners, the UP.Summit has become known as the “Davos of Mobility”. UP.Summit is an invitation-only gathering of the world’s most innovative minds working together to *Transform the Moving World*. Leaders of the most impactful companies moving people and goods gather each year with the goal of accelerating progress toward cleaner, faster, safer, and lower cost mobility solutions on the ground, in the air, over the oceans, and in space. The UP.Summit was founded in 2017 and is jointly organized by UP.Partners, Tom and Stuart Walton, and Ross Perot Jr, rotating between Bentonville, AR and Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX each year.

About UP.Partners

Transportation is the underlying fabric of society. With a mission of *Transforming the Moving World*, UP.Partners invests in the pioneering entrepreneurs who are creating technologies that help move people and goods cleaner, faster, safer, and lower cost - on the ground, in the air, over the oceans, and in space. UP.Partners joins some of the world's most innovative investors and companies including Alaska Airlines, ARK Invest, and Woven Capital, the investment arm of Toyota subsidiary Woven Planet Group. UP.Summit convenes the mobility community's brightest minds each year to help humanity go UP. Together, the UP community is transforming the moving world. For more information, visit [UP.Partners](https://uppartners.com) or follow on Twitter [@UpPartnersVC](https://twitter.com/UpPartnersVC) or [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/uppartners).

Media Contacts

Universal Hydrogen

Kate Gundry

uh2@pluckpr.com

Connect Airlines

Scott Brownrigg

media@connectairlines.com